

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PPT-01 VO-03 SCS-03 MMO-01

A-01 PER-01 /022 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182

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FOR SCS, VO, PPT, AF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, APER, ABUD

SUBJECT: FY 1979 "CONSULAR PACKAGE"

REF: MBABANE 1748

HEREWITH COMMENTS ON MBABANE'S PARTICULAR CONSULAR OPERATIONS,
WHICH SHOULD BE INSERTED IN PARA "I" REFTEL:

1. MBABANE IS THE SITE OF USAID'S OFFICE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATION (OSARAC), WHICH HAS A LARGE CONTINGENT OF REGULAR OFFICERS AND AN EVEN LARGER FLOW OF INSPECTION/STUDY/FEASIBILITY TEAMS, ALL OF WHOM ARE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA TO THE 5 COUNTRIES UNDER OSARAC JURISDICTION. CONSULAR SECTION IS VERY OFTEN ASKED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, NAMELY, TO OBTAIN LAST-MINUTE AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSIT INTO OR OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA, AT A COST OF CONSIDERABLE TIME, EFFORT, AND GOODWILL. CONSULAR SECTION IS ALSO REQUESTED TO ASSIST NON-AMERICAN AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES ON CONSULAR PROBLEMS.

2. SIMILAR PROBLEMS APPLY TO THE ALREADY LARGE PEACE CORPS CONTINGENT AND THE EQUALLY SUBSTANTIAL MISSIONARY

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POPULATION.

3. EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF TIME ARE SPENT STRAIGHTENING OUT SWAZI STUDENTS' VISA PROBLEMS. AS A GROUP (FOR REASONS UNKNOWN) THEY SEEM UNABLE TO COME TO TERMS WITH INS REGULATIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN STUDENTS. OFTEN, THE PROCEDURE EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE EXCHANGE OF

DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

4. DUE TO POLITICAL UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA, SWAZILAND HAS BECOME AN ESCAPE SITE FOR NUMEROUS REFUGEES, MANY OF WHOM REQUEST ADVICE ON HOW TO TRAVEL TO THE US FOR SCHOOLING OR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES. THEIR PROBLEMS ARE COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT MOST DO NOT HAVE INTERNATIONAL PASSPORTS, ONLY LOCAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

5. DUE TO GREATLY INCREASED WORKLOAD AT AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG, (CAUSED BY POLITICAL UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA), A LARGE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS COME TO MBABANE TO REQUEST IMMIGRANT VISAS. SINCE MBABANE DOES NOT ISSUE I.V.'S THE CONSULAR OFFICER SPENDS CONSIDERABLE TIME EXPLAINING PROCEDURES AND LAWS APPLICABLE TO POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS.

6. PROBLEM UNIQUE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IS THAT AN RSA VISA IN PASSPORT CAN CREATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR AMCITS TRAVELING TO BLACK AFRICAN STATES. AS RESULT, APPROXIMATELY 20 PER CENT OF POST'S PASSPORT ISSUANCES WERE FOR "CLEAN" PASSPORTS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL OUTSIDE SOUTHERN AFRICA.

DECON ON RECEIPT.
WACHOB

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